

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
 LETTER TO SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY SUPPORTING RETIREMENT OF LT. GEN. BUSTER  
 GLOSSON WITH THREE STARS, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS  
 JUNE 17, 1994

DEFENSE WEEK

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## *Secretary Perry Backs Glosson's Three-Star Retirement*

BY TONY CAPACCIO

Defense Secretary William Perry has backed the controversial retirement nomination of Air Force Lt. Gen. Buster Glosson, according to congressional correspondence. Consideration of Glosson's retirement by the Senate Armed Services Committee has been delayed several times as the panel mulls over a damaging report by the Air Force and Pentagon inspector generals.

The report concluded Glosson "lied under oath" about his role in tampering last year with a general officers promotion board.

Perry's deputy, John Deutch, came out on June 1 in support of Glosson. Deutch attributed Glosson's statements to "imperfect memories or misunderstandings."

Now Perry is on board. "I support Lt. Gen. Buster Glosson's nomination for retirement at the three-star level," Perry wrote Sen.

Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) June 17. "The letter you received on June 1 accurately reflects my reasons for reaching this conclusion," he wrote.

Grassley has vigorously opposed the retirement nomination and may introduce into the *Congressional Record* portions of the Air Force IG report the service had originally censored which contained the most damaging conclusions against Glosson.

In defending the four-star retirement of CNO Adm. Frank Kelso against charges of poor leadership in the Tailhook scandal, Perry set up a standard for conduct he seems to have abandoned in the Glosson case.

During April 12 testimony Perry said dishonesty on Kelso's part would have tipped the balance against him. "One blotch

could do that but it has to be a blotch of considerable magnitude," Perry testified before the Senate panel.

"If I had concluded, for example, that Adm. Kelso had lied during the investigation, that one blotch would have been sufficient in my mind to have offset to a great extent the others."

Likewise, Perry testified, "Had that negative mark included a lack of integrity or a lie to an investigator, that negative mark would have been so great that I would not have supported the recommendation in front of you."

According to the Air Force IG's censored conclusions, Glosson "lied under oath during our interview in describing the nature and circumstances of his communications" to officers who complained about his behavior." *Defense Week* reprinted the uncensored pages in its April 4 edition.



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
1450 -

17 JUN 1994

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter of June 8, 1994.

I support Lieutenant General Buster Glosson's nomination for retirement at the three star rank. The letter that you received on June 1, 1994 from the Deputy Secretary of Defense accurately reflects my reasons for reaching this conclusion.

Sincerely,

*William G. Perry*

cc:

Senator Sam Nunn  
Senator Strom Thurmond

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